

But let us take this hypothetical. Let us say we have a major war in the Middle East sometime in the next 3 or 4 years. Let us say that OPEC all of a sudden decides to cut off the spigot at some point or let us say OPEC decides to double the price. At that point, what do we do? We do not have an irritant at that point; we have got a national crisis. And where do we go? What do we do?

The first thing that we are going to do is we are going to start scrambling, and we are going to try to figure out what we do have. Right now we do not know. I am not saying we have to drill, I am not saying that we have to extract oil, but we need to know what our resources are, in the gulf, in the 1002 area, we need to know precisely. Because this is something that can very likely happen in the near future.

And so it is not a matter of destroying the area; it is a matter of exploring and knowing what is available to us.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment which would protect a very special area originally set aside by that radical environmentalist Dwight David Eisenhower. We can have lots of spirited debate about the science and the impact of drilling and other essential matters related to this issue, but I will leave that to others. For me, this is an issue of fundamental principle. What right do we as human beings and what sense does it make as a Nation to open a pristine area to oil drilling when we are not willing to take the simplest, easiest steps to conserve oil?

Earlier today, this House defeated my amendment to raise CAFE standards which would have been the only truly significant conservation measure in this bill. Opening ANWR without any consideration of taking serious conservation steps is simply irresponsible. We are denying future generations a wilderness because we refused to take painless steps to control our own generation's appetite for oil. I do not know when that kind of thinking became conservative, but I do know that for eons that kind of gluttony has been considered wrong.

The proponents of oil drilling add insult to injury with their spurious arguments in favor of drilling. It is only a few thousand acres, they say. It is like saying, Don't worry, the tumor is only in your lungs.

The proponents say the drilling in Prudhoe Bay has had no ill environmental effects, but in reality some of the largest environmental fines in history have been paid because of damage in the Prudhoe Bay operations.

I am told, You say you don't want to drill in my State but anything goes in your State. Well, I stood and opposed drilling in the Finger Lakes National Forest in my State of New York.

It is said to me, How can you oppose ANWR? You've never seen it. I have never had cancer, either, and I vigorously oppose it. A lot is at stake with this amendment, a lot in terms of principle, in terms of impact on wildlife, in terms of land conservation.

I urge my colleagues to think about the future, the impact on generations to come, and support the Markey-Johnson amendment.

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Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. McCOLLUM).

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Chairman, earlier this summer, I went to the Arctic Refuge; and it is a living treasure. It is a treasure that must be defended and protected for future generations. Drilling in the arctic is not about a national crisis, it is about petroleum pirates and this administration willing to plunder a national treasure for profits.

I want to believe that this Congress has the courage and wisdom to invest in an energy strategy that emphasizes conservation, energy efficiency, and renewables.

I urge my colleagues to protect the Arctic Refuge.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1½ minutes, and I ask unanimous consent that the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) control the balance of time on this side.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT). Without objection, so ordered.

There was no objection.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Chairman, I find it is very interesting that on September 16, 1996, the President of the United States went to Arizona and declared 1.7 million acres of monument in the State of Utah, and that people got up on this floor and all over America and said this is beautiful, this is a great gorgeous area. And the question the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) asked was, has anyone been there? No, they had not.

Do you know how many millions and millions of acres in the West is nothing but sagebrush? Well, two-thirds of that was nothing but sagebrush. But no, we are going to tie that up, with the biggest deposit of low-sulfur coal there is that we know of in the world.

I find it is interesting when everyone says how pristine this area is. Well, I have only been there twice. I do not think in my definition of pristine, it even comes close.

But I think The Washington Post said it best. Fourteen years ago they made this statement. "That part of ANWR is one of the bleakest, most remote places on this continent, and there is hardly any other where drilling would have less impact on the surrounding life in the world."

Then they make another statement. "Even the most ardent people concede that, in the winter, with 70 below zero temperature, it is no paradise; however, it is no paradise in the summertime either."

But beauty is in the eye of the beholder. I guess there is some beauty

there. Those who have been there know better.

I worry about those we can least depend on are controlling our oil supply. Do you realize what we are getting out of this area, our best projections, is probably the exact amount we are getting from Saddam Hussein, this great lover of America. And we are going to say, okay, Mr. Saddam Hussein, you can control the spigot; we do not have to.

I think this is really kind of a foolish approach for us to take, and I would worry about it.

Let me say this: this amendment is anti-energy; it is anti-jobs. It is especially anti-jobs, and that bothers me.

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS).

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Chairman, I am reluctant to speak tonight because, being in politics for 24 years, I know after 10 o'clock at night it is difficult for some in the Chamber to be tolerant but I believe deeply in the issue, and, therefore, I want to speak about it.

I believe we will not have a world to live in if we continue our neglectful ways. I believe that with all my heart and soul. But earlier today this House continued these neglectful ways by refusing to hold SUVs and other light trucks to the same efficiency standards as today's cars. If we had taken that simple step, we would have saved more gasoline in just over 3 years than is economically recoverable in ANWR, and yet people say we need to drill in ANWR.

I find it unconscionable that we would now consider despoiling one of North America's last great wilderness areas, when we are unwilling to take even the smallest steps towards slowing the growth in demand for energy resources.

Mr. Chairman, drilling in the Arctic Refuge will make Japan very happy, because that is where this oil is ultimately going. It is not going to the United States, it is going to Japan.

The bottom line is, we are not resolving our energy needs, because we are not conserving. We'll just continue to consume more and waste more, consume more and waste more, and act like it doesn't matter. We are on a demand course that is simply unsustainable!

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Chair advises Members that the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. TAUZIN) has 7 minutes remaining, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON) has 1 minute remaining, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) has 4½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Washington State (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Chairman, I was there 3 weeks ago, and I have come to